

SIGINT SUCCESS ON OKINAWA --- FOR THE OTHER SIDE April 5



The Americans landing on Okinawa

HISTORIC QUOTATION: The Battle of Okinawa in April 1945 was the last major ground campaign of World War II. The postwar interrogation of a Japanese intelligence officer, identified only as Lieutenant Commander T. Satake, produced this interesting observation about the period preceding the U.S. amphibious landings.

“A month before Okinawa, [the Japanese intercept service] had a notable increase in transmissions. Ten days before your Okinawa operation, there was a marked increase in submarine reports. These are easy to spot because we could get good direction-finder fixes as they closed in. When submarines changed from routine operational communications to urgent, we deduced that perhaps an air strike or landing might be in the offering [SIC], depending upon the tactical situation.”

Excerpted from “Importance of Transmission Security,” by Major William M. Hamilton, *ASA Review*, January-February 1951.

508 CAPTION: A panoramic view of U.S. landing craft and support ships in a bay on Okinawa.